

STATEMENT FROM DIRECTOR CARRIE LOPEZ REGARDING TRAVEL

Re: The business dinner meeting that I attended before the concert took place at Staples Center on Sept. 17, 2007. Among the topics I discussed were:

- Setting up a cemetery endowment fund to manage future problems with small, abandoned cemeteries, with Antonia Hernandez, president and CEO of the California Community Foundation. This relates to state business conducted by the Department of Consumer Affairs in that the department regulates funeral homes and cemeteries, and abandoned cemeteries are increasingly a local issue. Establishing and safeguarding future endowment maintenance funding is essential.
- Expanding access to and improving coverage for low-income consumers through State-regulated assistance programs, with Susan Trigueros, regional public affairs manager, Southern California Gas, and Kimberly Freeman, community relations director, Sempra Utilities. These business women are involved with state-regulated assistance programs in that their companies provide State-mandated subsidies for low-income residents.
- Education issues and oversight of private post-secondary schools and consumer protections, with state Sen. Gloria Romero.
- Enhancing the consumer financial literacy outreach program, including mortgage home loans, with Maria Contreras Sweet, chairwoman, Promerica Bank.

This meeting was a convenient and cost-effective means of addressing all of these issues in one place, at one time.

This was fully disclosed on my Form 700 and all costs have been reimbursed to the State and Sempra.

While I feel my attendance was legitimate, I apologize for the distraction it has caused and will reimburse the State for travel as well as pay back the concert tickets to Sempra Energy. The public's trust in my ability to execute my duties is the driving force behind my decision.

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